

MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 8, 2021
9:00AM – 12:00PM**

Subcommittee Chair: George Guillen, Environmental Institute of Houston-University of Houston Clear Lake (EIH-UHCL)

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Mike Lee, United States Geological Society (USGS)

GBEP Representative: Kristen McGovern

Call to Order, Introductions (Via Microsoft Teams)

Attendees: Kimber de Salvo Anderson (TIRN), Ryan Bare (HARC), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), Wendy Forester (GBEP), George Guillen (UHCL-EIH), Xinping Hu (TAMUCC), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ-SWQM), Michael Lee (USGS), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Hui Liu (TAMUG), Christopher Marshall (TAMUG), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Kerry Niemann (TCEQ-WQPD), Hanadi Rifai (UH), Christian Rines (GBEP), Michael Shields (TAMU-GERG), Christopher Steffen (TPWD), Dave Wells (TAMUG)

Approval of June 9, 2021 meeting minutes – approved.

FY 23 project development

Each person with a proposal was given 15 minutes to present five slides followed by a brief Q&A. Once all of the presentations were completed, the subcommittee continued with a discussion of the proposals.

Kristen stated that she would send out the spreadsheet for ranking later today, which will be due back on September 14. Each entity/lab has one set of rankings. Once the rankings are complete, the M&R recommended projects will be presented to the B&P subcommittee. Final project selections will be available in early November following the GBC meeting.

Project Updates:

- Lead Isotopes and Heavy Metal Concentrations in Galveston Bay Waters, Sediments, and Oysters – UH: The project has completed; the final report has been submitted and will be available soon.
- Characterizing PCBs and Dioxins in the Houston Ship Channel and

Galveston Bay Post Harvey – UH: Project fieldwork has been delayed due to Covid-19; UH is now implementing “self-management” of research activities. The plan was to begin sampling this summer; this has been deferred to the fall due to the Delta variant.

- Effect of Microplastics on the Base of Marine Food Webs – TAMUG: The museum specimens from Galveston Bay are currently being digested. TAMUG is currently trying to collect fish from the bay that are big enough for the swim tunnel performance tests.
- Galveston Bay Oyster Microplastics: Baselines and Impacts – TAMUG: Oyster samples have been collected; there was difficulty finding live oysters in some regions of the bay, including Trinity, Dickinson, and Kemah areas. TAMUG is working on processing the oyster and water microplastic samples. All condition index analyses have been conducted.
- Regional Monitoring Database – HARC: HARC has been working on updating and quality assuring the datasets, as well as preparing for Phase One of the database release.
- The Distribution, Fate, and Transport of Emerging Contaminants in Galveston Bay – TAMU: GERG is preparing for the next quarterly cruise on September 18; everything is good to go.

GBEP, Council, and subcommittee updates:

- WSQ subcommittee meeting: Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
- PPE subcommittee meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- NRU subcommittee meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 9:30 AM
- B&P Subcommittee meeting: Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 9:30 AM
- GBC meeting: Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Announcements/Path Forward Items

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 9:30AM – 11:30AM

Adjourn